Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
                Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
                Stephen Morabito

DATE: May 27, 2005

RE: Section 8 Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illness
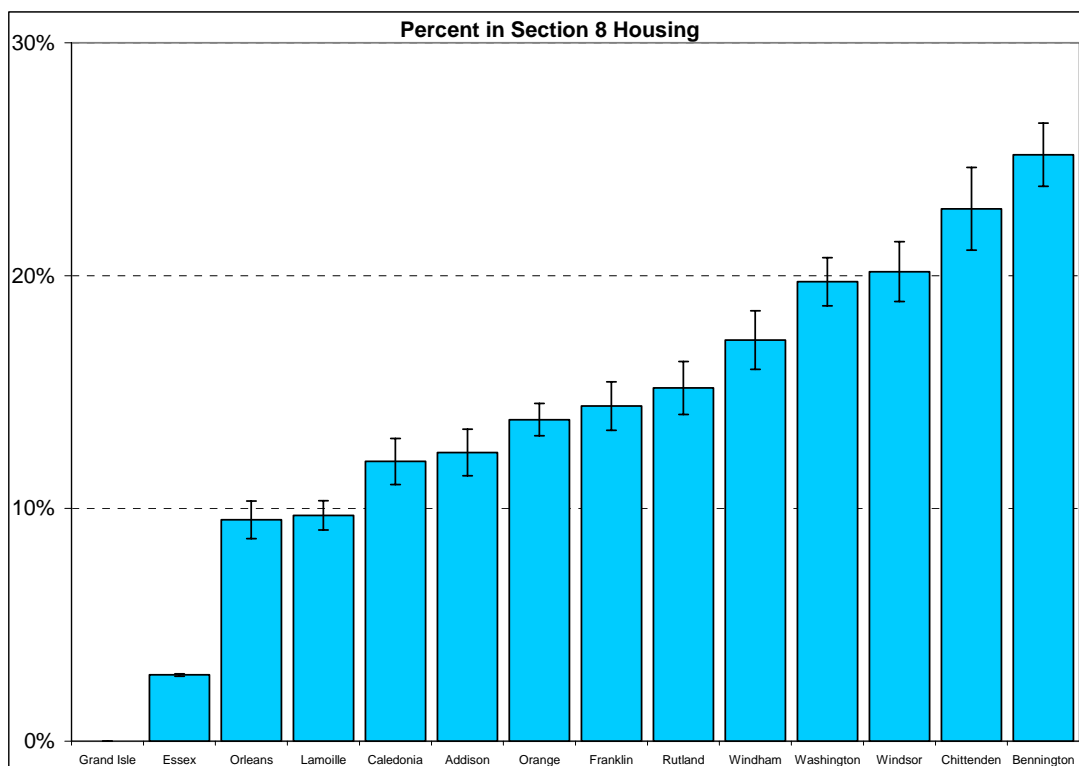
This week's report is the second in a series that focuses on utilization of Section 8 housing by adults with serious mental illness in Vermont. The first in this series examined overall Section 8 utilization rates for adults who received services from Vermont's Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for adults with serious mental illness and for members of the general population (http://www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2004/pip123104.pdf). This report provided overall utilization rates, as well as utilization rates for individuals in age and gender categories for CRT clients and for the general population. This week's report focuses on variation in utilization rates among Vermont Counties.

As you will see Section 8 utilization rates for CRT clients varied from more than 20% in Bennington, Chittenden, and Windsor Counties to less than 3% in Essex and Grand Isle Counties. Utilization rates for the general population varied from more than 2% in Chittenden County to less than 0.5% in Lamoille County and Orange Counties and 0.4% in Grand Isle County.

As in the previous analysis, data sets were provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and by Vermont's regional CRT programs. Both data sets include the date of birth, gender, and a geographic code. Geographic information, however, was missing for 13% of CRT clients and 18% of Section 8 residents. This analysis included all individuals for whom geographical data were available. Because these data sets do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals represented in both data sets. The number of individuals represented in both data sets is the number of CRT clients in Section 8 housing.

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis of extracts from Section 8 databases and other Vermont Human Services databases to pip@vdh.state.vt.us.

Utilization of Section 8 Housing
By Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) Clients
In Vermont Counties: May, 2005

Percent in Section 8 Housing

	General Population			CRT Clients			
	2003 VT Adult Population	# in* Section 8 Housing	% in Section 8 Housing	# in** CRT	# in* Section 8 Housing	% in Section 8 Housing	Relative Utilization Rate
Total	481,614	6,036 ± 22	1.3% ± 0.0%	3,122 ± 10	546 ± 15	17.5% ± 0.5%	13.9 ± 0.4
County							
Grand Isle	5,904	24 ± 1	0.4% ± 0.0%	16 ± 0	0 ± 0	0.0% ± 0.0%	0.0 ± 0.0
Essex	5,089	34 ± 1	0.7% ± 0.0%	35 ± 1	1 ± 0	2.8% ± 0.1%	4.3 ± 0.1
Orleans	21,122	187 ± 2	0.9% ± 0.0%	208 ± 2	20 ± 2	9.5% ± 0.8%	10.7 ± 0.9
Lamoille	18,884	102 ± 1	0.5% ± 0.0%	113 ± 1	11 ± 1	9.7% ± 0.6%	17.9 ± 1.2
Caledonia	23,230	198 ± 2	0.9% ± 0.0%	149 ± 2	18 ± 1	12.0% ± 1.0%	14.1 ± 1.2
Addison	28,099	270 ± 3	1.0% ± 0.0%	160 ± 2	20 ± 2	12.4% ± 1.0%	12.9 ± 1.0
Orange	22,552	120 ± 1	0.5% ± 0.0%	145 ± 2	20 ± 1	13.8% ± 0.7%	25.9 ± 1.3
Franklin	35,172	406 ± 4	1.2% ± 0.0%	226 ± 2	33 ± 2	14.4% ± 1.0%	12.5 ± 0.9
Rutland	50,094	488 ± 4	1.0% ± 0.0%	296 ± 3	45 ± 3	15.2% ± 1.1%	15.6 ± 1.2
Windham	35,005	387 ± 4	1.1% ± 0.0%	183 ± 2	32 ± 2	17.2% ± 1.3%	15.6 ± 1.2
Washington	46,231	505 ± 4	1.1% ± 0.0%	457 ± 4	90 ± 5	19.7% ± 1.0%	18.1 ± 1.0
Windsor	46,029	445 ± 4	1.0% ± 0.0%	259 ± 3	52 ± 3	20.2% ± 1.3%	20.9 ± 1.3
Chittenden	114,975	2,470 ± 19	2.1% ± 0.0%	675 ± 6	154 ± 12	22.9% ± 1.8%	10.6 ± 0.8
Bennington	29,228	399 ± 3	1.4% ± 0.0%	200 ± 2	50 ± 3	25.2% ± 1.4%	18.5 ± 1.0

Analyses are based on anonymous extracts from databases maintained by the Vermont Division of Mental Health and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

*Individuals in Section 8 Housing include all adults in residence on May 2, 2005.

**Individuals were served by Vermont Community Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs in fiscal year 2004.

Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).

Probabilistic Population Estimation is a statistical procedure that provides valid and reliable measures of the size and overlap of data sets that do not include unique person identifiers. These estimates are based on a comparison of the distribution of dates of birth in the data sets to the known distribution of dates of birth in the general population. This approach is particularly useful where concerns about the confidentiality of medical records limit the use of personally identifying information. For more detail, see: Banks SM & Pandiani, JA (2001) Probabilistic population estimation of the size and overlap of data sets based on date of birth. Statistics in Medicine. 20:1421-1430.